

# Chicopee Register

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## Teachers lowered in state COVID-19 vaccine priority list

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE — Chicopee teachers who live in Connecticut are being advised to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations there, since Massachusetts educators must wait to be inoculated as part of the third group in Phase 2 of the state's vaccination distribution timeline.

"I can tell you that in Connecticut, they are vaccinating teachers right now," said Chicopee superintendent Lynn Clark during the Jan. 20 school

committee meeting. "If they live in Connecticut, the board of health suggested that they try to get it there."

The conversation began when Ward 9 representative Mary Beth Costello inquired as to the status of vaccinations for school district personnel. Her question stemmed from a larger discussion.

"There's been concerns, I know with my constituents, in regards to making sure that teachers get vaccinated sooner than later," said Costello. "What is the status of vaccines

for school teachers? They are supposed to be a priority, and, hopefully, we can get them vaccinated sooner than later."

Clark stated that the state's Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education has yet to address the vaccination of school teachers in the Commonwealth. Teacher inoculations will not occur until Phase 2 begins next month.

"On the bright side, our school nurses have been vaccinated in Phase 1, but we have not heard anything about Phase 2 yet," said Clark, adding that

the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents is working to push the issue to the forefront.

This week, Governor Charlie Baker announced that teachers have been moved down the priority list for the vaccine and will be eligible in the third group of Phase 2, which begins Monday. First in line will be individuals 75 and older who weren't previously vaccinated, followed by those 65 and older and individuals

See **TEACHERS** page 5

## 9/11 Memorial Dog Park designed as 'regional destination'



The park will celebrate service, experiences of service members and open in 2022

*City seeks public input*

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE — A multi-dimensional recreational space will soon be created in Chicopee, courtesy of an interdepartmental collaboration that began five years ago. City officials are seeking public opinion before designs are finalized.

The Western Massachusetts Post-9/11 and Service Dog Memorial Park will be a family-friendly site, featuring an intricate trail system and dog park with areas designated for large and small canines.

The Chicopee Veterans Service Office, Department of Planning & Development and Department of Parks & Recreation gave an update on the project's design status last month. Site plans were also shared on a ChicopeeTV broadcast.

"So often, memorial parks or memorials are in honor of the fallen — in honor of those who gave all. What's really unique about this park is it's intended to celebrate the ser-

vice, the growth, the opportunities and the experiences that our service members have," said Stephanie Shaw, Director of Veterans Services.

Shaw partook in the December 2020 presentation alongside Mayor John Vieau, Director of Planning and Development Lee Pouliot and Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Ben Strepka, when the department heads outlined their collective vision.

"Many years ago, the city was gifted a parcel by Westover Air Reserve Base for the purpose of recreation," said Strepka. "Up until now, the parcel has sat underutilized by the city. Now, we have the opportunity to create a new and amazing park."

The park will be built on a triangular, seven-acre property located between Westover Road, Honeysuckle Drive, Lynwood Drive and a large utility easement. The property is already designated as a conservation area.

Mark Arigoni, Director of Landscape Architect at Milone & MacBroom/SLR, joined the

See **DOG PARK** page 5



COURTESY PHOTO  
Members of the Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard pose together at Szt Park in Chicopee.

## Mass. VFW Honor Guard welcomes President Biden

*Area military personnel partook in the virtual "Parade Across America"*

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
Staff Writer

REGION — On Jan. 20, members of the Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard partook in the virtual "Parade Across America" celebrating President Joseph R. Biden's inauguration.

A group of five veterans was chosen to represent the Commonwealth on a national stage last Wednesday as the country turned a page with the new presidential administration.

"This is the first time in the history of the inauguration parade that all 56 states and territories were featured. We've done a number of high-profile parades in the past, but this is the highest honor that we've been involved in. We knew we were up to the task and put as much energy into this as possible," said Brian Willette, a U.S. Army veteran from South Hadley, who carried a rifle during the procession.

Willette partook in the venture alongside his daugh-

ter, Christine Lupacchino, who lives in Chicopee and serves as Commander of the Honor Guard and master sergeant in the state's Air National Guard 104th Fighter Wing.

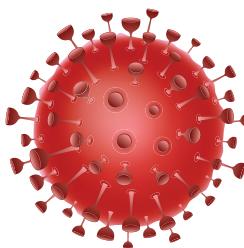
Eric Segundo, a U.S. Army veteran from Springfield, Rene Fuertes, a U.S. Navy veteran from Randolph and Keith Buckhout, a U.S. Marine and Air Force veteran from Easthampton rounded out the five-person unit.

On Jan. 20, the Honor Guard paid tribute to "The Greatest Generation" — veterans who served in WWII — and "The Newest Greatest Generation," members of today's all-volunteer U.S. Armed Forces.

During its presentation, members of the Honor Guard wore WWII Airborne uniforms, revealing the distinctive shoulder insignia of the 82nd Airborne Division, the country's first division compromised entirely of all-volunteer paratroopers.

While the Honor Guard filmed and submitted its routine more than a month ago, it did not receive word of its selection until two days prior

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## IN THE CITY COVID cases see slight downturn

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## IN THE CITY 4th annual Black Experience Summit at Elms

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## SPORTS Wolves fall to Indians

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# Council pursuing charter changes, following councilor's controversial comments

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE — The Chicopee City Council is pursuing new avenues towards amending the city charter.

On Jan. 19, elected officials discussed multiple courses of action that would ultimately result in the expulsion of Ward 3 Councilor Lucjan Galecki from the board.

Galecki has been under fire since posting a series of Facebook comments last month pertaining to sexual abuse that were viewed by many as highly inappropriate and offensive. Galecki has refused to resign, and although a number of councilors expressed a desire to revoke his seat, no recall provision exists within the city charter.

City Council president Shane Brooks has been vocal in his criticism of Galecki and is spearheading a charter change. On Jan. 19, Brooks introduced an order to adopt home rule petition to include a recall provision in the City Charter.

"This will allow us to focus on a sin-

gular issue. It's similar to what was done when the mayor was made a part of the school committee, so there's certainly past practice here. Many members were around at that time," Brooks said.

Brooks said the state delegation is in support of the action — one which the board unanimously delivered to the ordinance committee for a public hearing. Brooks noted that Natick is seeking to add a similar mechanism to its charter after town meeting member Suzanne Ianni stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

"Natick is struggling with the fact that they also don't have a recall provision embedded within their charter. It's affecting other communities, and I think we need to act now on this one very precise issue to be addressed within our charter," said Brooks.

Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe proposed an alternate route toward a charter change. McAuliffe believes that the city should establish a commission of residents that will review the charter every 10 years, beginning this year.

"Our charter was a cookie-cutter charter that was bought from a charter

company back in the 1800s when the city was incorporated, and we've been living by that governing document for a long time now, so it is due to have some updating," said McAuliffe.

Under McAuliffe's proposition, each of the city's nine ward councilors would appoint a constituent to the commission, while the four councilors-at-large would be eligible to select a total of two additional commission members.

McAuliffe said he prefers a commission over a committee, stating that residents must be elected to a committee and their decisions would be binding.

"I think this way is faster and more appropriate," said McAuliffe. "They would sit down, study, and issue a report to the council and the city clerk. It's an opportunity to hear from them; to allow them to do the research and study the charter and see what other opportunities there would be to modernize Chicopee municipal government."

City council would then review the commission's recommendations before continuing the conversation and making

an informed decision, he said.

Councilor-at-Large James Tillitson said McAuliffe had the right intentions, but was unreceptive to his proposal.

"I would want to change it right off the bat, I don't like this 10-year interval. This is like a constitution; you don't play around with it every so often because you think it's fun. This is serious business," said Tillitson.

When the discussion concluded, the council chose to deliver McAuliffe's proposition to the ordinance committee for public hearing.

Regardless of how a charter change is made, the majority of the board agreed the document must be modified.

"Thomas Jefferson believed that the U.S. Constitution should be rewritten every 10 years for this exact purpose," said McAuliffe. "There certainly is merit in updating a document that was written in the 1800s and purchased from some random company that was looking to make a quick buck on a newly incorporated town."

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com).

## COVID-19 cases trending downward after post-holiday spike

*Municipal testing site turnaround time averages less than a day, mayor says*

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE — As optimism grows surrounding what could be the beginning of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, the novel strain of the coronavirus lingers on, as it continues to leave a trail of new cases.

On Jan. 26, the city of Chicopee reported 649 active cases of COVID-19. A total of 2,212 residents have recovered from their bouts with coronavirus, while 23 residents have died from COVID-19.

A Jan. 25 report from the Office of Mayor John Vieau stated that the state's seven-day average positivity rate dropped to 4.85%. Furthermore, case counts

across the Commonwealth are trending downwards, entering the post-holiday period.

In Chicopee, the average total of new cases has decreased to below 30 daily. From Jan. 22 through the morning of Jan. 25, the city reported only 40 new cases, an average of only 13 cases-per-day over the weekend.

The city's COVID-19 testing site, open to all residents and city employees, is located at the upper level of the Council on Aging at the RiverMills Center, at 5 West Main St. Vieau said he's been pleased with the efficiency of the testing site.

"The turn-around time is very quick; I've seen it in three-quarters of a day. We're hopeful that this is going to help with transmission throughout the city," said Vieau during the Jan. 20 school committee meeting.

Individuals who test positive are or-

dered to remain home and quarantine, along with anyone identified as having been a close contact.

"We feel that this is the best way to help control the spread of the virus here in the city of Chicopee, as we get closer and closer to vaccines being more readily available," said Vieau. "Our EMTs and nurses have stepped up to the plate, not to mention other employees who are all contributing to the whole to make our testing site so successful."

Vieau emphasized that the city is putting its best foot forward in its attempt to secure as many vaccines as possible. Chicopee's Vaccine Task Force is solely dedicated to that mission.

"The Vaccine Task Force is committed to getting vaccines and vaccinations to the residents of Chicopee as quickly as we possibly can. Please know that we are working and doing everything we can, following the leadership at the state lev-

el," said Vieau.

Prior to making his statements last Wednesday, Vieau watched the inauguration of President Joe Biden. He felt strongly that the transition inside of the White House will ultimately aid the residents of Chicopee.

"We're looking forward to the new [Presidential] administration that was sworn in during today's inauguration," said Vieau. "We're looking forward to seeing some leadership coming out of Washington, which will certainly help in getting vaccines and making them readily available to everyone here in the city of Chicopee."

More information pertaining to Chicopee's COVID-19 case counts and pandemic-related mandates can be located at <http://chicopeema.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=466>.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at [dzbiersk@turley.com](mailto:dzbiersk@turley.com).

## Child and babysitting safety class

CHICOPEE — The Parks Department is offering a child and babysitting safety class for youth, ages 11-15 years old.

The class will be held at the Chicopee Parks office 687 Front St. on Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Masks will be worn at all times. The cost

is \$80 for residents and \$85 for non-residents.

The class will cover topics such as playtime, behavior management, phone skills, common dos and don'ts, bathing, feeding, changing diapers and fire safety.

Class space is limited. To register, go to [www.chicopeerec.com](http://www.chicopeerec.com)



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## ART-ventures for Kids: February vacation art fun

CHICOPEE — The Chicopee Parks & Recreation in conjunction with ART-ventures for Kids is offering in-person classes during school vacation.

There are two classes being offered for children, grades K -5: Watercolor Places and Pencil Cases on Thursday, Feb. 18; and Silly Cities and Wiggly Waves on Friday, Feb. 19.

The classes will be held at the parks and recreation office from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Masks will be worn at all times. The fee per day is \$40 for residents and \$45 for non-residents.

Spaces is limited; those interested can sign up for one or both classes. For more information or to register online, go to [www.ARTventuresforkids.com](http://www.ARTventuresforkids.com)

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# Elms College to host 4th annual Black Experience Summit

*Elms Black Experience  
Summit features  
Dr. Gretchen Generett*

CHICOPEE – College of Our Lady of the Elms will hold its fourth annual Black Experience Summit in celebration of Black History Month on Friday, Feb. 26 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event is hosted by the Elms College President's Office and the Office of Diversity and Engagement. Due to COVID-19 protocols, this event will be held virtually via Zoom.

"The Black Experience Summit will bring national experts in student affairs leadership and social justice advocates to Elms College for an important dialogue on the educational, cultural, economic, spiritual, and social justice aspects of the Black experience," said Antoinette Bonnie Candia-Bailey, Ph.D., vice president of student affairs and chief diversity officer at Elms College.

Highlights of the event will be the keynote speech by Gretchen Givens Generett, Ph.D., interim dean and professor in the School of Education at Duquesne University, and a panel discussion regarding the Intersectionality of Blackness in Higher Education.

Concluding the summit will be a Call to Action, through which participants will actively engage in discussing how they can all contribute to a better tomorrow.

"The theme to this year's Black Experience Summit is Underscoring Resilience: A Call to Action and we welcome everyone interested in furthering their understanding of the trials, triumphs, and ongoing challenges of African-Americans to attend," said Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, president of Elms College.

The summit will feature a keynote speech by:

Gretchen Givens Generett, Ph.D., the keynote speaker, is interim dean and professor in the School of Education at Duquesne University. She is also the Noble J. Dick Endowed Chair in Community Outreach. Generett is a qualitative researcher whose work centers on educational stories that have been rendered invisible. Her scholarship intermingles traditional sociology of education, African American studies, and feminist studies with more progressive concepts of justice that examine agency, empowerment, and action.

Panelists for a discussion on the Intersectionality of Blackness in Higher Ed-



COURTESY PHOTO

Gretchen Givens Generett, Ph.D., will be the keynote speaker.

uation include:

Kellie Dixon, Ed.D., director of student affairs assessment and staff development at North Carolina A&T State University. She has over eight years of experience within student affairs (i.e. housing and residence life, judicial affairs, student organization advising, multicultural affairs, assessment).

Brent Lewis, Ph.D., associate vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion at James Madison University. He has nine years of experience working in student affairs (housing and residence life, student conduct, student activities, LGBTQ+ services, commuter student services, & multicultural services). Lewis is committed to ensuring all students have a positive campus life experience, with a focus on the lived experiences of minority and underrepresented students.

Chazz Robinson, M.Ed., a doctoral candidate at the University of Buffalo pursuing his Ph.D. in higher education administration. Robinson has three years of experience within student affairs (i.e. housing and residence life, advising, admissions, transitional/ access programs). Additionally, Robinson has had the opportunity to intern for NY Gear UP, an initiative in New York State that assists low-income students by preparing them to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

The Call to Action panelists are:  
Antoinette Bonnie Candia-Bailey,

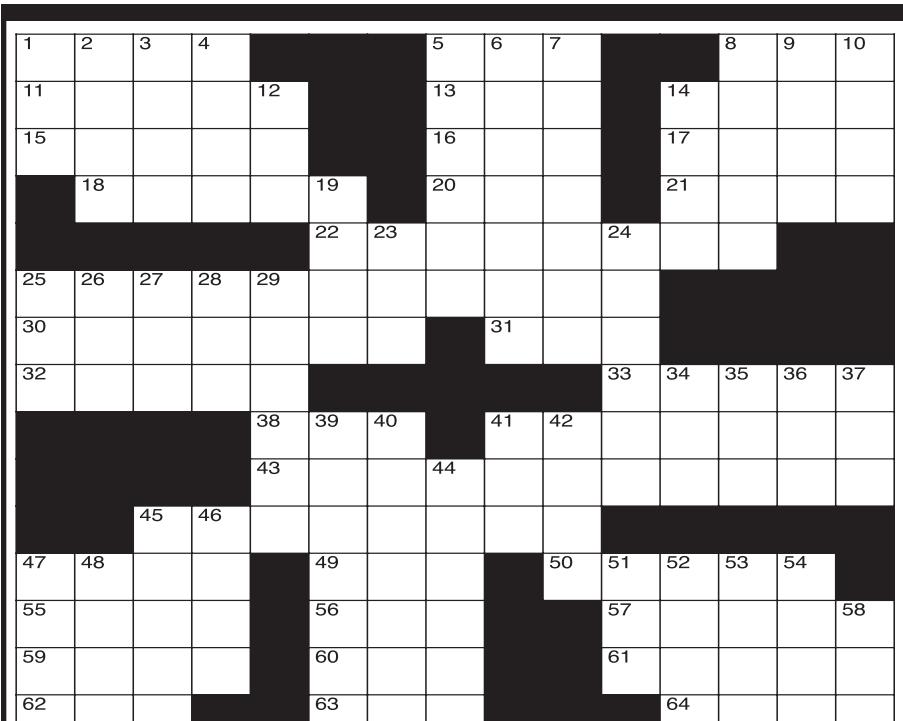
and academic initiatives.

Keshawn Dodds, M.Ed., executive director of the Boys & Girls Club Family Center in Springfield. He became well-known as a high school football player in Springfield and was awarded a football scholarship to American International College in 1997. After graduating with a B.S. in education, Dodds became an elementary school teacher within the Springfield Public Schools. He later worked as a mayoral aide for Springfield Mayor Charles V. Ryan. Dodds earned his master of education degree from AIC and was director of diversity and community engagement at the college.

Sr. Melinda Adrienne Pellerin, received her B.A. in history/social sciences /secondary education and holds a Master's in Educational Technology from Lesley University. Her achievements and work as an inner-city educator were highlighted in a speech by the late Senator Edward Kennedy on the Senate floor in 2006 when she was named the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. Sr. Melinda is a pastoral minister at Holy Name Parish in Springfield, Massachusetts, a chaplain at the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center, and a member of the diaconate board for the Diocese of Springfield.

The free event is open to the public, the Elms community, and anyone who is interested in issues of social justice, equality, and diversity.

Online priority registration will continue through February 19. Visit [www.elms.edu/summit](http://www.elms.edu/summit) to register and a Zoom link will be sent to all attendees prior to the summit.



## CLUES ACROSS

1. Gather a harvest	sound	5. Wedding accessory	modern human in Europe: __-magon
5. Federal Republic of Germany	47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea	6. Deep, narrow gorges	37. Adult female bird
8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!	49. You might put it in a fire	7. Dry cereal	39. Do away with
11. "The Little Mermaid"	50. Partner to "ooed"	8. Competitions that require speed	40. Lens
13. The common gibbon	55. Actor Idris	9. Cain and __	41. Flattened appendage
14. Volcanic island in Fiji	56. Slippery	10. Snake sound	42. Post or pillar in Greek temple
15. Mother of Perseus	57. Plant of the bean family	12. Type of amino acid (abbr.)	44. A medieval citizen of Hungary
16. Egg cells	59. One point north of northeast	14. Pattern of notes in Indian music	45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
17. Teams' best pitchers	60. Patti Hearst's captors	19. Satisfy	46. Abba __, Israeli politician
18. Credit associations	61. Places to hang clothes	23. Misfire	47. Sew
20. Advance	62. Midwife	24. Nearsightedness	48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
21. Hair styling products	63. Of she	25. Indicates before	51. Swiss river
22. Benign tumors	64. S. Korean statesman	26. Increase motor speed	52. Grayish-white
25. Arriving early	CLUES DOWN	27. When you hope to get there	53. A way to illustrate
30. Called it a career	1. Cool!	28. Indicates position	54. College basketball superpower
31. __ Paulo, city	2. Amounts of time	29. Where rockers perform	55. Midway between south and southeast
32. Avoid with trickery	3. Aboriginal people of Japan	34. Substitute	
33. Easter egg	35. __ juris: of one's own right	36. Earliest form of	
38. Veterans battleground	4. Popular veggies		
41. Lack of success			
43. Thing that causes disgust			
45. Deep, continuing			

ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

## Virtual Tang Soo Do Korean martial arts

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department is offering virtual lessons in Tang Soo Do – a Korean martial art. Learn with instructor Master Jeffrey Bulissa, a fourth degree black belt in Tang Soo Do and learn about self-defense, confidence and physical fitness.

Classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings virtually in the comfort of your students' own homes. The Classes will run from Feb. 1 – 24.

The following classes are being

offered: Little Dragons (ages five and six) from 5-5:30 p.m.; Gups (beginners white, orange and green belts, ages seven and up): 5:30-6:30 p.m.; and Gups (advanced brown belts and above, ages seven and up): 6:30-7:30 p.m. Classes require enough space to perform various movements.

Costs to participate are \$40 for Little Dragons and \$50 for Gups, both beginner and advanced levels. All Participants will be emailed a link to get into the classes. To register, go to [www.chicopeepr.com](http://www.chicopeepr.com)

## RiverMills Center launches tablet lending program

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging has launched a tablet lending program for Chicopee seniors ages 55 and older who have internet access, but do not have an updated device to get on the internet successfully.

These tablets can be used to get online, play games, or join Zoom pro-

gramming. This program will allow seniors to sign out a device for up to three weeks at a time. The tablets will also have charging and typing accessories, as well as a basic user guide.

Anyone interested in borrowing a tablet can contact Program Technician Jona Ruiz at (413) 534-3698 ext.104.

# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

## Do COVID-19 bonuses count as income?

By Russell Gloor  
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I'm 63 and still working, and I receive Social Security benefits. Because of COVID-19 my employer has been giving us a \$300 bonus, every three months. This will be \$1,200 for the year and it will put me over the \$18,240 earnings limit for this year. My question is, since these bonuses are COVID-19 related are they still considered earned income? My second question is, if I go over the limit does Social Security stop my check, even if it might be a portion of the check? Signed: Working During COVID-19

Dear Working: Whether your 2020 earnings (and those bonuses) put you over the annual earnings limit will depend upon how the bonuses are reported on your federal income tax return (or your W-2 if you aren't required to file). Your employer will send your W-2 earnings to the IRS which will, in turn, inform Social Security of your earnings. Social Security compares your 2020 W-2 earnings to the earnings limit to see if you exceeded the allowable limit. In other words, how your employer defines those COVID-19 bonuses and reports it to the IRS determines whether Social Security will count them toward the earnings limit. You should check with your employer's human resources department to see if your COVID-19 bonuses will be considered as taxable earnings reportable on your W-2.

If you exceed the limit, and you don't inform Social Security in advance that you did, they won't know about it until they receive your W-2 information from the IRS (sometime next year, after you file your income taxes). They will then send you a notification that you exceeded the limit and tell you how much you owe them, and they will want to recover \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). They'll give you the option to repay what they consider to be an overpayment in one lump sum, request a repayment plan or to have your Social Security benefits withheld for as many months as it takes for them to recover what you owe. Note they only withhold full months of benefits, not partial, so you could go several months without collecting any Social Security benefits until they recover what is owed.

The money they withhold because you exceeded the limit is not lost forever, because when you reach your full retirement age (66 ½ if you turned 63 in 2020) they will give you time credit for any months they withheld benefits. That means they will move your effective claim date forward by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will result in a small increase in your benefit amount. But you'll get that higher benefit for the rest of your life, enabling you to eventually recover the money they withheld because you exceeded the limit. And for your information, during the year you reach your full retirement age (FRA) the limit goes up and the penalty is less, and once you reach your FRA there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn while collecting benefits.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

## GUEST COLUMN

## Indoor seed sowing just like the pros do

My first experience with seed sowing involved an egg carton, some potting soil and a few marigold seeds. I must have been about 10 years old. I can still recall how amazed I was that a live plant could grow from what appeared to be a dried up sliver of straw. I can even conjure up the smell of the moistened egg cartons if I think about it hard enough! Even more entralling of a memory is the first harvest of flowers a couple of months after my offspring made its way out to the garden.

While it is still too early to start marigolds or even tomatoes indoors, it is the perfect time study up on the process so that you can be successful. Sure, it involves a bit more than an egg carton and a window sill, but out of it all you'll be rewarded for your hard work with a bounty of blooms or a basket of vegetables or both. Here are a few pointers that I have gleaned from many seasons of starting seeds indoors.

The general idea is to provide a moist, warm environment for the seed to germinate and then a semi-warm, well-lit environment for the plant to grow on. Therefore, props are necessary components if you want to be successful. Previous articles have covered this part of seed-starting in depth, but I'll recap the highlights. Invest in some heat mats and set them at 70 degrees to provide bottom-heat. As far as light goes, the window sill won't cut it unless you are extremely diligent about turning the plants many times over the course of the day, and even then, "stretch" is likely to occur. Instead, adjust a "shop light" so that it can be raised and lowered easily. One cool fluorescent bulb and one warm are recommended but two cool work just fine in my experience. Forgo garden soil or even regular potting soil in place of a finely milled seed-starting mix. Sterilize shallow containers of choice in a 10% bleach solution before using them.



**Roberta McQuaid**  
Columnist

Sow teenie seeds on the surface of moist starting mix; small seed can be sown in shallow furrows. Space as best you can by folding an index card, placing the seed in the fold and tapping the card with your finger. Larger seeds can be buried a quarter of an inch apart. Cover with a humidity dome or a clear plastic bag propped up like a tent and place on bottom heat. Mist the soil of surface-sown seeds occasionally. When thoroughly dry,

soak the container in a few inches of water; it will absorb moisture like a sponge. Once germination occurs, remove the dome or bag and place the seedlings within a couple of inches of the shop light off of the heat mats. Adjust lights accordingly as growth occurs. Use liquid fertilizer at one-quarter to half-strength after a couple weeks and transplant into small, individual containers or cells after true leaves form.

Transplanted seedlings can happily grow under the lights until it approaches the time to plant them outdoors. About a week before Memorial Day, harden off heat lovers such as tomatoes, peppers, basil or marigolds. Place in a sheltered spot and gradually work up to more exposure until finally they are outdoors all day and all night. All of this work may seem like a lot, but the benefits to starting your own seedlings are many, the first of which is the endless number of varieties for sale as seeds versus those available as plants at your local nursery.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

## WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com) or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

## Chicopee Register

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sonal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com).

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

# SENIORS

## Zoom Meditation with Michelle

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging offers “Meditation with Michelle” Via Zoom, Thursdays at 12 p.m.

Are you feeling stressed? Do you want to learn how to relax? Join us for Meditation on Zoom. This class is led by Michelle Zemba LMT. This is an online class. The Zoom link will be

shared on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be sent to you.

Please save the link as this will be the link you will use for each class.

## Gentle exercise with Ryan via Zoom

CHICOPEE- The Council on Aging offers “Gentle Exercise with Ryan” Via Zoom, Mondays and Fridays at 12 p.m.

This class focuses on functional movement & fun. This is an online class. Join Ryan every Monday and Friday at 12 p.m. The Zoom link is

shared on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please contact RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be emailed to you. Please save the Zoom link as that is the link you will use each class.

### TEACHERS from page 1

with two or more comorbidities. Next will be teachers and essential workers, like those in grocery stores, restaurants, food and agriculture, utilities and transit.

Schools could start pool testing

Clark credited the administration of Chicopee Mayor John Vieau for making testing readily available in the city for staff, students and families. The district is looking into the possibility of utilizing pool testing, a method that involves a batch of students being tested simultaneously.

“Some school districts might take 25% of a school population and test them on a particular day. If a group or a batch come back with a positive, then those students and staff get retested because their batch came back. That’s why it’s called

pool testing,” said Clark.

Prior to pool testing, consent would be required from staff members and the families of students. Chicopee had been ineligible for such testing until students returned to the classroom on Jan. 19.

“Chicopee was not eligible at one point because we did not have students [learning in-person], but because we have students in this week, we are able to move ahead if we so choose. We’re still getting additional information,” said Clark.

During last Wednesday’s meeting, School Department Budgeting Director John Miarecki addressed several developments pertaining to the district’s FY21 and FY22 budgets.

“Since we last talked, the [FY21 budget] has been signed into law by the Governor,” said Miarecki. “It’s important to note that, as we’re managing FY21 bud-

## Tai Chi with Michelle via Zoom

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging offers “Tai Chi with Michelle” Via Zoom, Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

Experience the many slow and gentle benefits of Tai Chi Fit/Qigong. The class is led by Michelle Zemba LMT, Certified in Tai Chi/Qigong. This is an online class. The Zoom link

will be shared on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be sent to you. Please save the link as this will be the link you will use for each class.

## Tuesday yoga at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging will be offering Zoom Yoga on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Caitlin Lavin, Certified Yoga

Instructor, will be leading classes. These classes are free and the Zoom links are available on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page or by calling (413) 534-3698.

### DOG PARK from page 1

December broadcast to share preliminary design plans and request public feedback. Arigoni became involved in the project two years ago and said he was impressed by the site’s potential.

“Opportunity is the word that I felt the first time that we walked through this property,” said Arigoni. “The intent is that this will be a regional destination.”

In the process of crafting concept plans, Arigoni said his firm prioritized the preservation of the site’s “natural beauty,” while also utilizing and expanding the existing trail system.

The park will construct a nature, play and fitness area that could include obstacles similar to those that soldiers experience during training, which will cost \$50,000.

A parking lot and gateway plaza will be added to the site along Westover Road. The plaza will cost \$75,000, and the parking and bus shelter will total \$145,000. The parking lot will consist of both paved and grass spaces.

Several of the trails on the property will be paved, and the city plans to implement a dog park and “Memorial Alley” for \$80,000. The feature will include a series of signs and memorials that reflect the contributions of service dogs, who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces following Sept. 11, 2001.

Arigoni expressed excitement over the proposed Pinnacle Plaza and Overlook, which will cost \$150,000.

“We’ll have a pinnacle plaza overlook. The idea for this is there’s a build-

up potentially of emotion,” said Arigoni. “It’s a little bit of a longer trek to actually get to the top of the elevation, but once you meander through the trail systems and get to that top space, there’s a sense of achievement; it’s a place for contemplation.”

In May of 2018, Sen. Eric Lesser secured \$75,000 in state funds that are being used in the project’s planning stages.

After collecting public input in the coming weeks, the city will prepare documents for bid in February and begin construction in April, which will continue until November. The park’s dedication and opening is scheduled for the spring of 2022.

“This project is unique in that it not only creates a special, celebratory park space in the city, but it also responds to the priorities of the community,” Pouliot said. “Additionally, because of the regional impact that a project like this can have, it would also be a huge attraction for residents, friends and guests from around the region, other communities and across the state to visit Chicopee and see what we have to offer.”

The December presentation can be viewed on ChicopeeTV’s Vimeo page. PDFs of the presentation and the final concept plan can be accessed at <https://www.chicopeema.gov/895/Post-911-Serviceman-Dog-Memorial>.

Pouliot welcomes comments regarding the future of the site and can be reached at [lpouliot@chicopeema.gov](mailto:lpouliot@chicopeema.gov) or (413) 594-1516.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com).

get, we also need to move forward into FY22. A lot of our cost savings that we’re realizing this year we hope to use to cover some of those deficits that may come out in the FY22 budget.”

On Jan. 27, the FY22 Governor’s Budget Recommendation was made available to the district. Currently, Miarecki and his colleagues are preparing a budget shell that includes the district’s salaries and expense lines.

“Once those numbers come in, we can plug that into our budget,” said Miarecki on Jan. 20, referring to the incoming recommendation of Gov. Baker. “Once that happens, we’ll be having meetings with our principals and directors along with the superintendent to start that complete budget process to finalize something for our subcommittee meetings that are ahead of us.”

On Jan. 20, the committee also approved the school calendar for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Last Wednesday, the committee elected Ward 1 representative James Tanhauser as chair of the curriculum subcommittee and Susan Lopes of Ward 6 was named vice-chair.

Lopes was also selected as chair of the facilities subcommittee. Douglas Girouard, an at-large representative, was named vice-chair.

Ward 8 representative David Schryver will chair the finance and budget subcommittee, and Tanhauser will serve as its vice-chair.

Schryver was also elected chair of the policy and human resource subcommittee. Girouard was named vice-chair.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com).

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# FACES AND PLACES

## HCC, GCC, Elms College presidents receive national recognition

*College leaders honored for advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion*

REGION – The presidents of Holyoke Community College, Greenfield Community College and Elms College have been recognized for outstanding leadership in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion by the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the education technology company Cengage.

HCC president Christina Royal, GCC president Yves Salomon-Fernández, and Our Lady of the Elms president Harry E. Dumay were among 13 college presidents nationwide to receive the AAC&U-Cengage Inclusion Scholarship. The scholarship recognizes college and university presidents whose outstanding leadership to advance liberal education has resulted in reduced equity gaps, improved inclusion and belonging for minoritized students, and reformed hiring

practices to promote greater diversity.

The recipients were announced Fri., Jan. 22, at the AAC&U Presidents' Trust Symposium, part of the AAC&U Virtual Annual Meeting. The Presidents' Trust Symposium brings together higher education leaders from all institutional types to explore the most pressing issues facing colleges and universities and to share strategies for success.

"AAC&U is proud to recognize and support these exceptional leaders in their efforts to advance equity and quality as hallmarks of a liberal education across a diverse range of campuses and student populations," said AAC&U president Lynn Pasquerella.

The AAC&U-Cengage Inclusion Scholarship recognizes higher education leaders who support and advance quality, equity, and student success in undergraduate education. This includes improving degree completion or transfer for students

from underrepresented groups; closing equity gaps in student success; improving diversity in hiring practices and creating more equitable hiring policies; and increasing the sense of belonging, well-being, and inclusion among students from historically underserved populations (e.g., racial and ethnic minorities, religious minorities, and LGBTQIA students).

"We are so excited to be able to support these amazing higher ed leaders who are making a real difference by reducing inequities and increasing access to education," said Fernando Bleichmar, executive vice president and general manager for U.S. Higher Education at Cengage. "At Cengage, we believe learning transforms lives, and the work of these leaders is so critical in giving students the opportunity to better their lives and in creating an educated, informed, and just society."

In recognition of their accomplishments, the AAC&U-Cengage Inclusion Scholarship recipients will each receive a one-year, complimentary AAC&U campus membership and a one-year complimentary membership in the AAC&U Presidents' Trust, a diverse network of chief executive officers who are committed to advancing the vision, values, and practices that connect liberal education with the needs of an increasingly diverse student body, a global workforce, and thriving communities. The Trust provides members with access to dedicated resources and events as well as exclusive opportunities to promote their thought leadership.

"Growing up as a first-generation, low-income, multi-racial college student, I understand some of the challenges today's students face and the importance of having an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive," said Royal, who is also being honored this week (Thursday, Jan. 28) as one of the 2020 Women of Impact by Business-West magazine. "These are very important issues to me personal-

ly and professionally, as well as to our college community, and I'm honored to receive this recognition on behalf of HCC."

The other recipients of the 2021 AAC&U-Cengage Inclusion Scholarship are:

Sandra Boham, President, Salish Kootenai College (MT)  
Roslyn Clark Artis, President, Benedict College (SC)

Karrie G. Dixon, President, Elizabeth City State University (NC)

Alicia B. Harvey-Smith, President, Pittsburgh Technical College (PA)

Walter M. Kimbrough, President, Dillard University (LA)  
Valerie Roberson, President, Roxbury Community College (MA)

Ron Rochon, President, University of Southern Indiana (IN)

Ivy R. Taylor, President, Rust College (MS)

Dwaun J. Warmack, President, Claflin University (SC)

David Yarlott Jr., President, Little Big Horn College (MT)

### VFW from page 1

to the inauguration. Fortunately, the group had been mentally preparing for the spotlight.

The Honor Guard was featured on national television twice last Wednesday, once during the virtual parade and again in the evening on "Celebrating America," a special inauguration program that was hosted by actor Tom Hanks.

"This event really encapsulated everything that we stand for," said Willette, Commander of the Mass. Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The national stage was not too big for the five-person squad of combat veterans, who honed their skills at a wide range of events each year.

"Whether it's posting the colors at a little league championship game here in western Mass. or at a Red Sox game, the same professionalism and dedication goes into each Honor Guard presentation," said Willette.

Willette was especially proud of his daughter, Lupacchino, who offered a congratulatory



COURTESY PHOTOS

U.S. Army veteran Brian Willette of the Mass. VFW Foreign Wars Honor Guard partook in the virtual "Parade Across America" on Jan. 20 alongside his daughter, Chicopee resident Christine Lupacchino, an Honor Guard commander and master sergeant in the state Air National Guard 104th Fighter Wing; Eric Segundo, U.S. Army veteran from Springfield; Rene Fuertes, U.S. Navy veteran from Randolph; and Keith Buckhout, U.S. Marine and Air Force veteran from Easthampton.

message to President Biden. Participating in the Honor Guard is a family tradition that dates back many decades.

"My dad and her grandfather was a member of the old United States Honor Guard in Washington D.C. in the 1950s," said Willette. "I often think it skipped me and went to her,

the expertise. She really knows her stuff as our commander. I couldn't be prouder."

For Willette, the recent attack on the U.S. Capitol brought added significance to an honor that he already considered to be special in its own right. He explained how the events that unfolded in Washington D.C.

several weeks ago impacted his approach.

"The events of Jan. 6 added special weight to this day. The attack on the Capitol I feel was a direct attack on our Constitution," said Willette. "It increased the magnitude and gave us that extra pride. Being all veterans, we've sworn to

uphold the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and I feel that we played a role in upholding that Constitution on Jan. 20 participating in the inauguration."

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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## Wolves fall to Indians

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Victoria Fogg passes the ball away.

Brianna Francis enters the paint.



Catherine Reynolds runs into blockers.

WARE — Last Friday evening, the Hampden Charter School of Science girls basketball team was defeated 63-29 at Ware High School. For the Wolves, it was their first action of the season under pandemic conditions.

## Winter sports begin



Amherst took the ice to start the regular season last week against Ludlow.

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

REGION — Winter sports, however abbreviated, have begun for several schools in Western and Central Massachusetts.

While Quabbin got off to a start a bit earlier, several Western Mass. teams caught up with game action beginning last Thursday evening.

Ludlow, Amherst, Agawam, Ware, and Hampden Charter School of Science were all in action with girls and boys basketball.

Hockey also got in on the action over the weekend, though not all of the hockey teams were involved with some schools opting not to participate in the sport.

Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, and Minnechaug, along with Pathfinder and

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Hampden Charter is one of the schools playing this winter.

Palmer, were scheduled to get involved on the action earlier this week, with the game action starting to pick up and teams attempting to play 10 to 12 games during the next five or six weeks, which is what is left of the winter season.

Agawam is scheduled to be in a bubble west of the Connecticut River, including Westfield and West Springfield.

Amherst will matchup with Ludlow, among other teams, and Ware and Hampden Charter mixed up last week, and Ware is set to take on Palmer and Pathfinder in the coming weeks.

Minnechaug and Chicopee Comprehensive are set to match up next week as well. East Longmeadow will also join the mix in that bubble.

In hockey action, Ludlow and Amherst had their first



There is limited action in the region with some schools opting out of the winter season.

games of the regular season. Ludlow, Agawam, Minnechaug, and other Berry Division teams will be part of a league in the coming season. Most of the teams in that league play their home games at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

Action at Olympia Ice Center last Saturday included Ludlow and Amherst as well as East Longmeadow and Agawam. All players were observing changes in protocol by changing into

See **WINTER SPORTS** page 8

## Entry forms now available for the Thompson 300



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Thompson 300 will take place in October at Thompson Speedway.

WATERBURY, Conn.

— The American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) have released the official entry form for the Thompson 300 at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Oct. 9 and 10. More than \$100,000 in projected awards are posted for the return of the historic event as part of the 59th World Series of Speedway Racing.

As previously announced, the 300-lap event will pay the winner a guaranteed minimum of \$20,000. Second place receives \$7,500 with \$5,000 for third. Everyone who takes the green flag will bring home at least \$1,200. Thirty-six starting positions have been posted with a total of \$85,475 in base purse money.

Lap money is also up for grabs. Every lap sold will award \$50 to the driver who leads that lap. This means up to \$15,000 in lap money and the Thompson 300 winner could pocket up to

\$35,000 total.

A Last Chance "B" Feature has been posted as well. This final round qualifier will pay \$1,000 to win and \$250 to start for teams that do not transfer into the Thompson 300.

"The Thompson 300 is one of the most famous events in Modified racing," ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. "When Tom Mayberry and I reached out agreement to promote events at Thompson Speedway, Tom's first idea was to bring back the Thompson 300. Together, we've put a lot of work into figuring out how to make it happen. We're already excited even with the date still nearly nine months away. It's going to be a must-see event this year and hopefully for years to come."

The entry form has been posted at [www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds](http://www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds) and [www.proallstarsseries.com](http://www.proallstarsseries.com).

See **RACING** page 8

# IN THE CLASSROOM

## American International College announces Fall 2020 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – American International College (AIC) in Springfield has named 640 students to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester. Dean's List students are full-time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these scholars during this unprecedented time.

### Chicopee:

Ariel Alvarez, Samantha Bishop,

Andrew Boyer, Iris Correa Berly, Michael Cruz, Emma Davis, Shane Denault, Melissa Feilen, Brianna Fontaine, Darius Green, Mustafa Hamid, Meghan Kalbaugh, Landon Larochelle, Zachary Martin, Elena Martinez, Sara Monsalve, Giovani Paz, Aamna Shahid, Kelly Shea, Kacie Smith, Patrycja Szot, Daniel Szymczyk, Yahelis Viana Diaz, Kayla Wegrzyn.

## Springfield College recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2020 Fall Semester

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College has recognized Dean's List Students for the 2020 Fall Semester.

### Chicopee:

Kaylee Sherburne, who has a primary major of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Julia Nadolski, who has a primary major of Exploratory Studies.

Brittany Beyette, who has a primary major of Health Care Management.

Anna Kaletina, who has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Aqsa Maham, who has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Viktoriya Perevala, who has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Hannah Reidy, who has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician

Assistant.

Ashley Rouleau, who has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Brianna Nadeau, who has a primary major of Health/Family and Consumer Science.

Georgia Perreault, who has a primary major of Health/Family and Consumer Science.

Oksana Kagan, who has a primary major of Sports Biology.

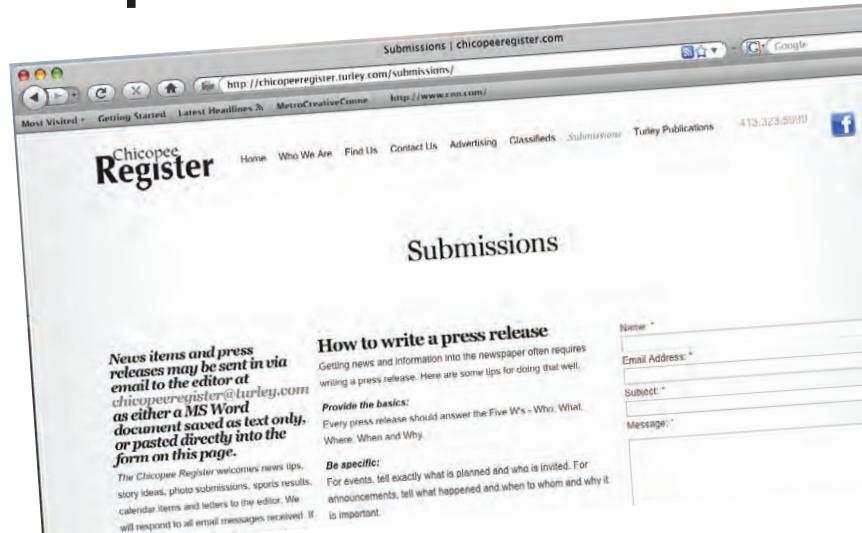
The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

## Kelsey Bennett named to Fall 2020 Semester Dean's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN, Mass. – Dean College is pleased to announce that Kelsey Bennett of Chicopee has earned a place on the Dean's List

for the Fall 2020 semester. Students named to the Dean's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

## Get Your NEWS published!



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Submissions are also accepted via email at [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com).

## Phlebotomy for Healthcare Workers class at STCC starts Feb. 8

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will offer 60-hour training for healthcare workers who want to become a certified phlebotomist.

The class, open to anyone licensed in various medical fields in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, runs Feb. 8 through March 2, with the exam offered on March 5. Class hours are 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Labs for the course will be held in person on the STCC campus. All students must wear masks and adhere to STCC COVID-19 procedures.

The noncredit course, offered through the Workforce Development Center at STCC, prepares students to take the exam to become a certified phlebotomist in Massachusetts. The class is designed to teach workers in certified healthcare positions to draw blood for diagnostic procedures.

Anyone interested in taking the class should have a current healthcare certification in at least one of the following healthcare roles (those with certification in other healthcare fields not listed below may be eligible):

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)  
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Patient Care Technician (PCT)  
Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)  
Certified Electrocardiogram Technician (CET)

Certified Dental Assistant (CDA)

Instructor Stacey Richters said the intensive course is a fast program that allows workers to get the training they need to bring their career to the next level. She said many of her students work as CNAs and get job offers even before they are certified.

"This training will open the door to higher pay," Richters said.

Certified phlebotomists can work in emergency rooms, in clinics, doctor's offices and blood mobiles, among other healthcare venues. The fee for the class includes the National Healthcare Association Exam.

To enroll online and learn more about this course, visit [www.stcc.edu/wdc/healthcare](http://www.stcc.edu/wdc/healthcare) and click on the "Phlebotomy Certification for Healthcare Workers" link.

For more information, contact the Workforce Development Center at (413) 755-4225 or email [wdc@stcc.edu](mailto:wdc@stcc.edu).

### WINTER SPORTS from page 7

uniforms and gear in parking lots. Temperatures were cold with an even colder wind chill on Saturday. Players were only allowed to put skates on once inside the arena. The small number of fans allowed to attend games were not allowed to mill around in the lobby, and the extension of benches was completed as well as a fenced-in extension.

At Olympia, if more than one player on a team was sent to the penalty box, they were sent to their team's bench to serve out the penalty in order to have one player in the box at a time.

The winter season will continue until late February and then Fall 2 is scheduled to begin with some basketball action, indoor track, girls volleyball, and football taking center stage into the first month of the spring.

### RACING from page 7

Teams that register by Thursday, April 15 receive an early-entry discount. The first 26 teams that register will also receive a garage stall for World Series weekend.

Qualifying for the Thompson 300 is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9 with the 300-lap main event on Sunday, Oct. 10. An optional practice session is planned for Friday, Oct. 8. More information will be announced over the coming months. All schedules are subject to change.

This year's Thompson 300 is the first time the event has been held since 2005. Previous winners include Northeast racing legends Richie Evans, Geoffrey Bodine, Ron Bouchard, Jimmy Spencer, Mike Stefanik, Steve Park, Mike McLaughlin, and Ted Christopher.

The return of the Thompson 300 is the finale in the six-race Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series. The opener of the series is the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 on April 10 and 11. Some of the top names in Tour-Type Modified racing have already entered the Icebreaker event, including Keith Rocco, Doug Coby, Bobby Santos III, Ron Silk, Mike Christopher Jr., and Jon McKenna. The series also includes \$5,000-to-win events on June 16, July 7, Aug. 11, and Sept. 15.

Teams that attempt to qualify for all

six Outlaw Open Modified Series events will be eligible for provisional starting spots in the Thompson 300. The number of available provisionals is to be determined.

The rules for the Outlaw Open Modified Series have been posted at [www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds](http://www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds). Contact Greg Felton at (413) 695-2272 or [gt.felton@gmail.com](mailto:gt.felton@gmail.com) with any Modified tech questions.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, [media@acttour.com](mailto:media@acttour.com), or visit [www.acttour.com](http://www.acttour.com). You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact [passracing@roadrunner.com](mailto:passracing@roadrunner.com) or visit [www.proallstarsseries.com](http://www.proallstarsseries.com). Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email [oval@thompsonspeedway.com](mailto:oval@thompsonspeedway.com), or visit [www.thompsonspeedway.com](http://www.thompsonspeedway.com). You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## INVITATION FOR BID

**CHICOOPEE  
ELECTRIC LIGHT  
725 FRONT STREET,  
CHICOOPEE, MA 01020  
BID NO. CEL 21-0489**

**ISSUE DATE:  
JANUARY 21, 2021**

Sealed proposals are being accepted for: **15 KV ALUMINUM & COPPER URD PRIMARY CABLE (ANNUAL BID)**

**BID OPENING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION: FEBRUARY 11, 2021 at 10:00 AM** at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

**BIDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN DUPLICATE. PLEASE READ AND COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ENTITLED 1.0 PREPARATION OF BIDS.**

Bid documents are available at the business office located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

The Vendor/Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" and of Chapter 164 Sec. 56D as amended, of the Massachusetts General Laws, both of which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Municipal Light Board, is in the best interest of the Municipal Lighting Plant.

Is your firm a: **MBE WBE** (please circle) MBE/WBE firms must be currently certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please submit Bids in **duplicate** clearly marked with the Bid Number and Title:

**BID NUMBER: C.E.L.  
21-0489**

**TITLE: 15 KV  
ALUMINUM & COPPER  
URD PRIMARY CABLE  
(ANNUAL BID)**

Natalie Colberg,  
Purchasing  
01/29/2021

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD21P0059GD  
In the interests of  
Efren Y Calderon  
Of Chicopee, MA  
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment  
of Guardian of a Minor**

## NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

### 1. Hearing Date/Time:

A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **01/13/2021** by **Luz D Vazquez** of Waterbury, CT will be held **02/17/2021 09:00 AM Motion** Located **www.zoomgov.com, Meeting ID 1615070715, Dial in 646-828-7666, Judge Hyland**

### 2. Response to Petition:

You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

### 3. Counsel for the Minor:

The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

### 4. Counsel for Parents:

If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

### 5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:

A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: January 13, 2021

**Rosemary Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
01/29/2021**

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No. HD21P0088EA  
Estate of:**

**Arthur L Hubert, Jr.**

**Date of Death: 12/14/2020**

**CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Alan Hubert** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Alan Hubert** of

Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/24/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 20, 2021

**Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
01/29/2021**

**Carmen Sanchez Quinones  
15 Girard Ave  
Springfield, MA 01109**

**2006 Jeep Commander  
Vin: J18HG58206C139613**

**Robert Nelson  
240 Beacon St  
Hartford, CT 06105**

**2006 Mitsubishi Lancer  
Vin: JA3AJ26E66U001458**

**Edward Alvarez  
32 Marquette St  
Springfield, MA 01104**

**2006 Toyota Corolla  
Vin: 1NXBR32E66Z652384**

**Jorge L Blancomelendez  
62 Cross St  
Southbridge, MA 01550**

**2010 Ford Fusion  
Vin: 3FAHP0HA1AR407909**

**Andrea Kane  
3 Hill Place  
West Springfield, MA 01089**

**2011 Chevrolet Equinox  
Vin: 2CNFLCEC9B6224234**

**Erika Saurez  
40 Riverview Homes  
Pittsfield, MA 01201**

**2014 Nissan Sentra  
Vin: 3N1AB7AP1EY261589**

**William Ramos  
2250 Sw 69Th Ave  
Miami, FL 33101**

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**Jason Casella  
6 Beekman Pl  
Agawam, MA 01001**

**2018 Acura TLX  
Vin: 19UUB1F31JA008687**

**Hem Pun  
40 Eastern Ave  
Manchester, NH 03104**

**2018 Kia Optima  
Vin: 5XXGU4L34JG187954**

**Jimmy Smith  
289 Iron Mine Rd  
Wallace, NC 28466**

**01/29, 02/05, 02/15/2021**

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-8600**

**Docket No. HD21P0056EA  
Estate of:**

**Christine Johnston  
Also Known As:**

**Christine Harty  
Date of Death:  
June 27, 2020**

### INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Joyce Hanousek** of Huntington, MA.

**Joyce Hanousek** of Huntington, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 21, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
01/28/2021**

## UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 21, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
01/28/2021**

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No. HD21P0106EA  
Estate of:  
Margery J Lamontagne  
Date of Death: 09/29/2020**

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Paul G Lamontagne** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Paul G Lamontagne** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/10/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 13, 2021

**Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
01/29/2021**

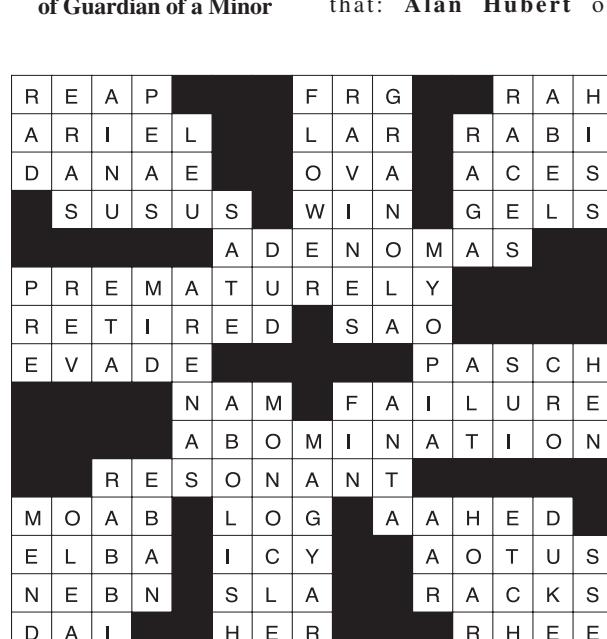
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*Chicopee Register*

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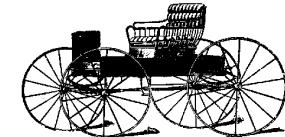
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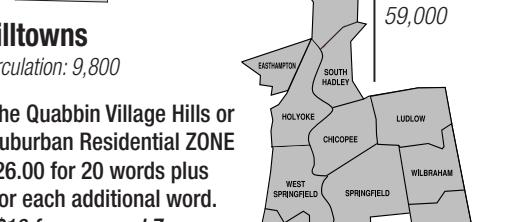
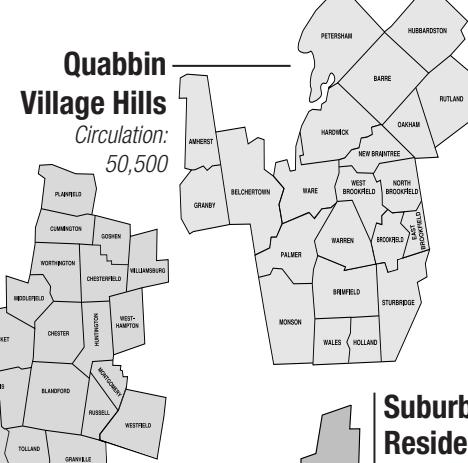
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# AROUND THE REGION

## AHMERST VIRTUAL SHOW PREVIEW

# Annual railroad show will chug along virtually this year

By Jonah Snowden  
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Regular visitors of the annual Amherst Railway Show are in luck. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual show is still scheduled to take place and can be viewed from the comfort and safety of home.

David Royce, treasurer of the Amherst Railway Society, said traditionally, during the last weekend of January, the annual show gets about 20,000 visitors to the Eastern States Exposition – aka “the Big E” – train show.

In addition to the exhibits, all regular in-person meetings have been replaced by virtual show and tell programs and other events to abide by the COVID-19 pandemic safety guidelines.

On the weekend of the show, Jan. 30-31, anyone interested can visit amherstrail.org, where there will be vendors and manufacturers, such as Rapido Trains Inc. showcasing new products. Navigating to individual sites from there will be rewarding for those looking to invest in their rail-oriented pastime.

“They’ll be giving great discounts to people who want to go back to their website,” said Royce.

“Right now, we have 75 different



The Covid-19 pandemic will not derail the annual Amherst Railway Society show at the Big E.

vendors that have signed up.”

What Royce said he is looking forward to with this upcoming show is that it will serve as a way to promote model railroads, assist the vendors and manufacturers, as well as people who are excited and looking forward to seeing what’s new and available.

Royce also wants anyone interested in attending the show for both days to know that it’s free to attend.

“We are a nonprofit corporation,” said Royce. “We’re not opposed to donations, but it is free.”

On Jan. 30, the virtual show will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the second day. For more information, visit the railways society’s website or their Facebook page.

Anyone who is interested in potentially becoming a member of the railway society are welcome.

## United Way of Pioneer Valley celebrates 100th anniversary

SPRINGFIELD – On Jan. 10, United Way of Pioneer Valley reached its hundredth anniversary. Since the start of its campaign on Jan. 10, 1921, the organization has helped hundreds of thousands of people to get out of poverty – and stay out – through food and utility assistance, financial coaching, youth programs, and assisting with disaster relief. In total, the United Way of Pioneer Valley has invested over \$193 million in the community since 1921.

Originally known as the Springfield Community Chest, United Way of Pioneer Valley took on its current name in 1972, while maintaining the same scope of work. UWPV now serves all of Hampden County, Granby, and South Hadley, with the exact same goal as its flyers from 1921: relieving and preventing the distress caused by financial hardship.

“All of us at the United Way of Pioneer Valley are excited about the opportunity to honor our past as we shape our future, with our new community investment programs. We ask everyone to be on the look-out for events and activities honoring our hundredth anniversary in the weeks and months ahead”, said Paul Mina, president and CEO of United Way of Pioneer Valley.

### About United Way of Pioneer Valley

United Way of Pioneer Valley mobilizes people and resources to strengthen communities. UWPV targets the community’s most pressing needs and focus resources, community partnerships, and the energy of volunteers to create measurable results.

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## AROUND THE REGION

# Be prepared: Cold temperature's impact on vehicles and driving

REGION - While January temperatures have been milder than normal, winter may still bring in its share of cold air before the seasons change. Frigid air can impact vehicle performance and road conditions. AAA Northeast encourages drivers to be vigilant when preparing for and hitting the road in the cold.

Battery failures are the primary reason for emergency calls to AAA Northeast in winter months. "A car engine needs about 30% more energy to start when the temperatures drop to freezing. At zero degrees your vehicle battery can only deliver 50% of its rated capacity," said John Paul, AAA Northeast Senior Manager of Traffic Safety and the AAA Car Doctor.

"Cold winter weather not only

brings challenging driving conditions, but also automotive dilemmas for vehicles that haven't been well maintained. These problems can increase a driver's chance of getting into a collision if they are not diligent to inspect their vehicles and remember to drive cautiously in the event of snow or ice," said Paul.

AAA recommends the following for preparing your vehicle for cold weather conditions:

Emergency roadside kit: always stay prepared by carrying an emergency roadside kit in your vehicle in the event of a breakdown.

Battery and charging system: If it is more than three years old, consider having the car battery tested. To start up during a cold snap, your car will need a

fully charged battery.

Tires: Examine tires for tread depth and uneven wearing. Proper tire tread increase traction with the road surface in poor weather conditions and can prevent skids on icy or wet surfaces.

Coolant: Check the coolant level in the overflow tank when the engine is cold. Also, inspect the cooling system lines for leakages, cracks or loose clamps.

Oil: Be sure to have your oil changed based on the manufacturer's recommendations. Synthetic oil can be an advantage in cold weather because it will allow for faster starts.

Wipers: Replace any wiper blade that does not adequately clean the windshield. Consider installing winter wiper

blades winter blades to assist in preventing snow and ice buildup that can interfere with windshield visibility.

In snow or icy conditions, AAA Northeast suggests that individuals refrain from driving unless necessary. When driving in snow or icy conditions drive slowly, refrain from using cruise control, allow for increased following distance between vehicles and avoid slamming on the accelerator or brake.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with 70 offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance, and auto-related services.

## Baker-Polito Administration re-files unemployment legislation

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration on Jan. 13 re-filed unemployment insurance legislation initially filed last month. The Governor's legislation aims to sustain unemployment benefits and provide an estimated \$1.3 billion in unemployment insurance relief to the Commonwealth's employers over two years.

In addition to a two-year unemployment insurance tax schedule freeze, the legislation also proposes financing measures designed to ensure the solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund

and that federal borrowing that has occurred is repaid in a responsible and affordable manner.

The main provisions of this legislation include:

Short Term Employer Tax Relief through a two-year tax schedule freeze. Current Massachusetts unemployment legislative statute requires the employer tax schedule to increase from schedule E to schedule G. This would cause an average per employee tax increase from \$539 to \$866 – a nearly 60% increase over the previous year. Remaining on schedule E

for 2021 and 2022 slows annual employer contribution growth from \$539 average per employee costs in 2020 to \$635 in 2021 and \$665 in 2022.

Authorization for the issuance of special obligation bonds for the purposes of repaying federal advances. In order to fund the unprecedented increases in demand on the unemployment system in Massachusetts as a result of COVID-19, the Commonwealth has received federal cash advances. Through the issuance of bonds, the Commonwealth will be able to ensure positive trust fund solvency to enable the continued payment of benefits. The utilization of capital markets also allows Massachusetts to avoid paying punitive federal tax increases on employers regardless of their experience rating if federal advances are not repaid by November of 2022. Bonds issued will

be supported by an unemployment obligation assessment and will not be general obligations of the Commonwealth.

Establishes an employer surcharge on contributory employers. In 2020 all federal advances taken to pay benefits are interest free. However, interest on federal advances will begin to be charged beginning in January of 2021. The first interest payment is due in the Fall of 2021 and it cannot be paid from the state unemployment trust fund, per federal law. To fund interest payments on repayable advances, the legislation also establishes a separate fund to house surcharge proceeds. The passage of this provision authorizes the Department of Unemployment Assistance to make this assessment but does not require the surcharge if interest is waived through future federal legislation.

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## Boston Children's Hospital and Baystate Health form collaboration

BOSTON and SPRINGFIELD – Boston Children's Hospital and Baystate Health have formed a collaboration that will improve patient access to highly specialized pediatric care and strengthen the coordination of care between Boston Children's and Baystate Children's Hospital in Springfield.

The collaboration will provide patients throughout western Massachusetts with improved access to pediatric specialty care at Baystate Children's Hospital, and it will streamline care planning among providers at Boston Children's and Baystate Children's.

The collaboration anticipates that the two hospitals will jointly develop pathways to ensure that children and adolescents get the right care in the right setting. In some instances, Boston Children's clinicians will be available to provide care at Baystate Children's.

"As the leading children's hospital in western Massachusetts, Baystate Children's has long partnered with the community to advance the health and well-being of all children from prevention to critical care. Today we are delighted to build upon our exceptional care for families through a collaboration with the much-respected Boston Children's Hospital, which will provide additional clinical expertise when needed for our young patients," said Dr. Mark A. Keroack, president and CEO of Baystate Health.

"This collaboration acknowledges and strengthens the close working relationship with Boston Children's Hospital that we have enjoyed for many years," said Dr. Charlotte Boney, chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Baystate Children's Hospital. This collaboration will facilitate our continued ability to keep specialty care local so that children and families have access to a broad range of high-quality, affordable services right here in western Massachusetts. We look forward to exploring other opportunities that will strengthen our collaboration to serve our mutual missions of patient care, medical education and community service."

"At Boston Children's, we are committed to providing comprehensive pediatric care, close to home whenever possible, to patients and families throughout Massachusetts," said Sandra L. Fenwick, CEO of Boston Children's Hospital. "This collaboration will strengthen the ability of two great institutions to improve access to the highest quality care for the patients and families we look forward to serving together."

The collaboration builds on the strong working relationship that currently exists between the two hospitals. The two hospitals already work collaboratively in cardiology, neurology and dermatology, and by enhancing medical education, remote consults, information technology and other initiatives, the two institutions will be better able to coordinate care for their patients. Boston Children's Hospital is ranked the #1 children's hospital in the nation by U.S. News & World Report and is the primary pediatric teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Today, 3,000 researchers and scientific staff, including nine members of the National Academy of Sciences, 23 members of the National Academy of Medicine and 12 Howard Hughes Medical Investigators comprise Boston Children's research community. For more information, visit the hospital's Discoveries blog and follow it on social media @BostonChildrens, @BCH\_Innovation, Facebook and YouTube.